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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS



IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

VACCINE THERAPY IN TYPHOID FEVER.—*The New York Medical Journal* says: Dr. Mark W. Richardson, of Boston, said that it was his personal opinion that the status of vaccines in typhoid fever was somewhat as follows: 1. They were of the greatest value in prophylaxis, and should be made use of by all who, as physicians, nurses, ward tenders, or laymen, were likely to be exposed to the disease. Their use by the general public could not be expected in the near future. For this result, time and education would be required. 2. Typhoid vaccines, properly used, would, he felt sure, prevent a large proportion of relapses. 3. The success of vaccines in the treatment of the original disease would depend upon the character of the case. Conservatively used, they would do no harm and they might be of much assistance. 4. Early diagnosis and early treatment would be undoubtedly of great importance.

TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDHOOD.—Hamburger states, in the *British Medical Journal*, that the majority of persons become infected by tuberculosis in childhood. The frequency of tuberculous infection increases from year to year, while tuberculous morbidity—that is, the frequency of manifest tuberculous disease—decreases from year to year. Tuberculosis is very commonly latent, producing no symptoms; this is especially so if the infection dates from the third or fourth year. The prognosis of tuberculosis in childhood becomes more favorable the older the person is at the time of the first infection.

TREATMENT OF THE PARTIALLY DROWNED.—In a paper in the *Lancet* by J. A. Barnes, he says that death sometimes results from shock in cases of drowning and when this is the prominent feature there is prospect of saving life. He recommends that as the brain, including the circulatory and respiratory centres, is robbed of its proper supply of blood an effort should be made to drive the blood from the abdomen and lower part of the body so the brain may receive its proper supply. Having placed the head lower than the body the legs are firmly bandaged from the feet upwards. A roller towel is then placed around the patient's

abdomen, the ends crossing in front. An assistant takes hold of each end. As the arms are brought down to the chest in the expiratory movement of Silvester's method of artificial respiration, these two assistants, grasping the towel ends firmly with their right hands, pull them, at the same time pressing the abdomen with their left hands. As the inspiratory movement commences the pressure is relaxed, not to interfere with the expansion of the lungs. These measures can be quickly carried out with assistance, of which there is usually no lack.

SENILE APPENDICITIS.—*The Inter-state Medical Journal*, quoting from an Italian contemporary, says: Martini states that in the appendicitis of old people, the process usually progresses slowly, with little or no fever and the formation of a hard inflammatory mass. We have ourselves seen a case in which the clinical picture was typical of cancer at the cæcum, and this diagnosis was made. Operation was declined and the gradual but complete disappearance of the tumor proved it to be inflammatory in character.

QUININE IN WHOOPING-COUGH.—*The New York Medical Journal* cites an article by Berliner in the *Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift*, in which whooping-cough is treated by the introduction into the nasal fossæ of an ointment of quinine sulphate and petrolatum. The strength of the ointment varies from 1 in 10 to 1 in 6, according to the age of the patient; it is introduced three times daily by means of a glass rod, the patient's head being well thrown back. Marked improvement, especially in younger patients, is noticed in a few days, the attacks being reduced in number and in intensity.

A NEW mode of purifying water, one which seems to be far better than filtering, is its treatment with ozone. The city of Paris has an apparatus with a capacity of purifying ten million gallons a day with ozone, and a small domestic apparatus is on the market in Europe which treats sixty gallons of water an hour. This device has been found to reduce the number of germs from forty-three thousand to two per cubic centimetre. In the ozone apparatus the germs are actually killed.—*Good Housekeeping*.